Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 EB-07 /024 W

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R 242030Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1330

UNCLAS MEXICO 10305

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC, MX

SUBJECT: STOLEN AND EMBEZZLED US PLANES

REF A. STATE 266568; B. MEXICO 9805

- 1. WHILE WE APPRECIATE LEGAL ADVICE AND PROCEDURAL INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REF A, EMBASSY WISHES REMIND DEPT THAT HILL AIRCRAFT AND LEASING, DESPITE WHAT THEY MAY SAY, HAVE MADE NO ATTEMPT THAT WE ARE AWARE OF TO INVOKE CONVENTION TO RECOVER AIRCRAFT. AS REPORTED REF B, MEXICO CITY ATTORNEY RABASSA, WITH WHOM EMBASSY TALKED, APPARENTLY NOT SUFFICIENTLY INFORMED ABOUT FACTS OF CASE TO INDICATE OR HAVE OPINION WHETHER PLANE SUSCEPTIBLE TO RECOVERY UNDER CONVENTION.
- 2. DEPT AGAIN REMINDED THAT EMBASSY INVOLVEMENT THIS CASE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY LIMITED AND HILL AIRCRAFT EFFORTS HAVE BEEN CONCENTRATED IN TORREON.
- 3. WHILE WE AGREE ONLY OWNER CAN MAKE DECISION WHETHER OR NOT APPLY UNDER CONVENTION, EMBASSY MUST DISAGREE WITH REF A CONCLUSION THAT NEITHER DEPT NOR EMBASSY CAN MAKE ANY DETERMINATION WHETHER PLANE SUSCEPTIBLE TO RECOVERY UNDER CONVENTION. WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT BEFORE INVOKING TREATY PROVISIONS IN NAME OF USG, DEPT OR EMBASSY MUST NOT BE REASONABLY SATISFIED THAT CASE COMES WITHIN CONVENTION. IS DEPT SUGGESTING THAT DESPITE WHATEVER THE FACTS MAY INDICATE, USG CAN BE FORCED BY OWNER TO INVOKE CONVENTION? UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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4. WE WISH TO ASSURE DEPT THAT EMBASSY DOES NOT

PERSIST IN MAKING SUCH JUDGEMENTS BEFORE RECEIPT OF ALL DOCUMENTS. IN FACT WE KNOW OF NO CASE IN WHICH SUCH A QUESTION HAS ARISEN. RATHER THAN DISCOURAGING OR THWARTING USE OF CONVENTION, WE ARE TRYING TO PUBLICIZE ITS EXISTENCE AND ENCOURAGE ITS USE, AS EMBASSY INITIATIVE IN SENDING LETTER TO POSSIBLE CLAIMANTS ATTEST. EMBASSY MADE REQUEST FOR DEPT VIEW RE APPLICABILITY CONVENTION BECAUSE NEITHER EMBASSY NOR HILL ATTORNEY RABASSA IN MEXICO CITY HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION TO FORM AN OPINION. CALDERHEAD

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